

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 101957

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS:OEXC, UR

SUBJECT: SISTER-CITY: BAKU-HOUSTON

REF: MOSCOW 5878

1. TOWN AFFILIATION ASSOCIATION (TAA) INFORMED DEPT MAY 1 THAT HOUSTON STILL UNDECIDED ON ITS ABILITY TO ESTABLISH SISTER-CITY RELATIONSHIP WITH BAKU. HOUSTON IS INTERESTED, BUT, WHILE WAITING FOR MORE THAN ONE YEAR FOR EXPRESSION OF WILLINGNESS ON PART OF SOVIETS TO ESTABLISH RELATIONSHIP, ARRANGED TIE WITH FRENCH CITY. THIS TIE AND SIMILAR RELATIONS ESTABLISHED EARLIER WITH SEVERAL OTHER CITIES MIGHT PRECLUDE ESTABLISHMENT OF TIES WITH BAKU. CITY IS ACTIVELY STUDYING RESOURCES TO DETERMINE WHETHER IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO UNDERTAKE ADDITIONAL RELATIONSHIP. WHILE TAA HAS REASON TO BELIEVE THAT HOUSTON DECISION WILL BE AFFIRMATIVE, THEY DO NOT WANT TO RAISE EXPECTATIONS IN BAKU UNTIL DEFINITIVE DECISION REACHED.

2. WE DO NOT EXPECT TO HAVE DEFINITIVE DECISION FROM HOUSTON OFFICIALS IN LESS THAN TWO OR THREE WEEKS, FOLLOWING ANTICIPATED FAVORABLE RECOMMENDATION SOON BY STUDY
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COMMITTEES AND SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSION BY CITY COUNCIL.

3. TAA HAS INFORMED MIKHAIL PESLAK OF FRIENDSHIP COMMITTEE
THAT HOUSTON HOPES TO ESTABLISH TIE BUT STILL HAS MATTER
UNDER CONSIDERATION. KISSINGER

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